

The Express



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a nice spring break and enjoyed some extra family time together. Now all we need is for some spring weather to come! I know I am ready and am sure you are too.

On April 21st & 22nd we will be conducting our parent/teacher conferences. Please note there are no regular classes or lunch bunch classes held on those days. The Bunnies teachers will meet with parents on Wednesday, April 20th in lieu of class that day. All other classes will meet as usual on the 20th. Sign-up sheets for conference times are posted outside each classroom. If you do not get to school regularly to sign up, just let either myself or your teachers know and we can sign you up for a conference time. Parent/teacher conferences are an opportunity to have a face to face conversation with your child's teachers to discuss how your child is doing in school and discuss their developmental progress. I am sure you will find them both beneficial and insightful.

I have had questions from parents in past years asking if we hold a graduation ceremony at our years end for the Pre-K classes. I want to take a moment to address this and let you know what we do at NCNS to prepare the children for their transition to kindergarten. We do not hold a graduation ceremony for several reasons. We feel the children are just beginning their schooling, so the concept of graduating seems very misleading. This is just the beginning of their education; not the culmination. In addition, for some children the preparation it would take to prepare for a ceremony would put undue stress upon them and make them more anxious. Instead, we concentrate on preparing the children for the transition to their elementary school and try to ease their fears of leaving the safety and security of our small school so they feel comfortable and excited for their new school. In preparation, the teachers will ask you to sit down with your child and write down a list of their summer plans. I compile a list for the teachers indicating the corresponding elementary school for each child (I will send the list to all Pre-K parents as well). The teachers then create a visual board of all the elementary school in the area (either a photograph or other visual reference). Each child will have an opportunity to tell their classmates what their summer plans are and then tell them which elementary school they will attend in the fall. They will also be able to either put a popsicle stick with their name on it or another visual (could be a photo of themselves) transferring it into their corresponding elementary school. This gives the children the opportunity to see who will be attending kindergarten with them, which is very reassuring to the children. We have followed this process for several years and feel it is a wonderful way to ease the children's fears as well as prepare them for their next step in their education. Hopefully some of you will be able to see this process first hand on your special day in your child's classroom. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss any concerns you have pertaining to your child.

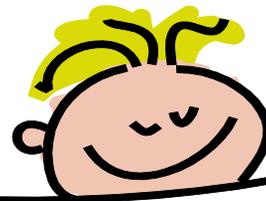
Warm Regards,
~Gail



April Birthdays

Evan Anderson
Stephen Barreca
Bridget Beach
Lyla Dickson
Maddie Junkmann
Maddy Kohl
Tommy Owen
Sammy Shatek
Liesel Smith

★HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!



Dates to Remember

April

- 20 Spring Conferences for Bunnies
- 21 No School - Spring Conferences
- 22 No School - Spring Conferences

May

- 1 2016/2017 Tuition Payment Due
- 16 Lunch Bunch and Parent/Tot Session #2 end this week
- 25 Last Day of School for Bunnies and Dolphins
- 26 Last Day of School for Turtles, Ducklings, Pandas and Koalas
- 26 Summer Send Off/Art Night at NCNS 5:30-7:00pm

Car Magnet Contest

Congratulations to Ashley Demakis and Maggie Rubin, winners of the March Car Magnet Contest!

They both won \$10 Starbucks gift cards just for displaying NCNS magnets on their cars.

Show your NCNS pride all year round, and keep those magnets in place for the summer.



Last Week of School Class Schedule

Monday, May 23rd

9:00am - 11:15am: Turtles & Dolphins
9:15am - 11:15am: Bunnies
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas

Tuesday, May 24th

9:00am - 11:15am: Turtles & Ducklings
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas

Wednesday, May 25th

9:00am - 11:15am: Dolphins
9:15am - 11:15am: Bunnies
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas

Thursday, May 26th - Last Day of School

9:00am - 11:15am: Turtles & Ducklings
12:45pm - 3:00pm: Pandas & Koalas
5:30pm - 7:00pm: SUMMER SEND OFF/ART NIGHT at NCNS

****The last week for Lunch Bunch and Parent/Tot is May 16th - May 20th.****



Save the Date

NCNS at the Northbrook Fourth of July Parade



As always, NCNS will be marching in the Northbrook 4th of July parade. Bring your decorated strollers or wagons and your little ones can enjoy the parade with the NCNS families. Look for an email this summer with further information.

Save the Date

NCNS at the Northbrook Sidewalk Sale

Enjoy the 2016 Northbrook Sidewalk Sale on Friday, July 8th and Saturday, July 9th from 9am - 3pm. NCNS will be volunteering to help with the train ride ticket sales on Friday, July 8th.



NCNS Yard Signs Available!



Show your family's NCNS school pride and help spread the word about our amazing preschool programs with a NCNS yard sign! Simply stop by Gail Nemoy's office and ask for your very own sign to display in your front yard!

Enrollment Time

If you haven't already enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year or know of someone who is considering enrolling, please contact Gail Nemoy at 847-272-5430 or Molly Brown at 847-272-8414 for additional information.



Save the Date

NCNS at the Northbrook Days Goldfish Booth
August 3rd - 7th



We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Goldfish booth at Northbrook Days. Two hour shifts are available and the time flies by with all the fun! Please watch your email for an invitation this summer!

Save the Date

Family Fall Fest 2016!
September 10th

We'll be celebrating our first family event of the 2016-2017 school year at the NCNS Family Fall Fest! More details to come!



Saying Farewell to Mindy Koehler

At the end of this school year, Mindy Koehler will be retiring after more than two decades as a teacher at NCNS.

Mindy's first experience with NCNS was as a parent - her oldest, Andrea, started at NCNS in 1991 as a four year old, and Mindy likes to say she's been at school ever since. Her youngest, Michael, started NCNS as a three year old in 1993; and when he started Kindergarten in 1995, Mindy was asked to teach the Lunch Bunch class (at that time, a cooking class where the children ate what they prepared) with Julie Crowe. She taught the Lunch Bunch class until 2005 when she was offered a classroom position.

Since then, Mindy has taught every class at NCNS with the exception of Parent/Tot, and she has loved them all! If you ask her at the end of each year what her favorite class was, she would always answer the one she just taught. And her students have felt that same fondness for her, evident in the many hugs and hellos she gets from previous students in the halls.

Mindy will miss quite a bit about NCNS. Not only does she truly treasure the warm, dedicated, creative and talented teachers and director she has come to call friends, but she will also miss the smiling faces of the children as they come into the classroom each day ready to learn and play.

In her next chapter, Mindy is looking forward to becoming a grandmother with the birth of her first grandchildren - twins - this summer! She is also looking forward to traveling more with her husband, Larry.

Mindy, you will be missed! We wish you all the best as you retire from service at NCNS. We are so appreciative of all of your dedication over the years. Enjoy the time with your family and friends!

The NCNS Board and Gail Nemoy



Saying Farewell to Ilene Alpert

Ilene Alpert will be retiring at the end of this school year after 16 years as a teacher at NCNS. Ilene first started at NCNS in 2000 teaching the Early 3's. However, within a couple of months, she was also asked to help with the 3's class. She's also taught the 4's class in her time at NCNS.

She really appreciates the creative environment fostered by a director like Gail and fondly recalls her favorite unit to teach: the Castle unit (coincidentally Mindy Koehler's favorite unit to teach too!). When Ilene and Mindy were teaching the 4's together, their children loved pretending to be medieval knights, queens, kings, princes and princesses. Taking inspiration from the kids - the Castle unit was born and ran for well over a month. They cooked, learned and played medieval strategy games, created individual family crests and had a parent set them onto capes for each child. They created a reading castle and read many related books just to name a few of the activities.

Ilene has enjoyed the closeness of the staff at NCNS and believes that a cohesive, caring staff is the key to a school's success. And she has very much enjoyed working with all the children and their families. She calls it a privilege that she will miss very much.

In the next chapter of her life, Ilene is planning to be busy! She hopes to take interesting classes and swimming lessons, and plans to exercise regularly and join a book club. She is also exploring some community volunteer opportunities. All of this will be on top of her current schedule: she already sings with the North Shore Harmonizers (a women's a capella group), rehearses with the NoteAbles quartet, and serves on the chorus board. When her husband, Ed, retires next year, they hope to travel more - they enjoy hiking in the national parks.

Ilene, we wish you all the best as you retire from service at NCNS. We will miss you and are so appreciative of your years of dedication. Enjoy the time with your family and friends!

The NCNS Board and Gail Nemo



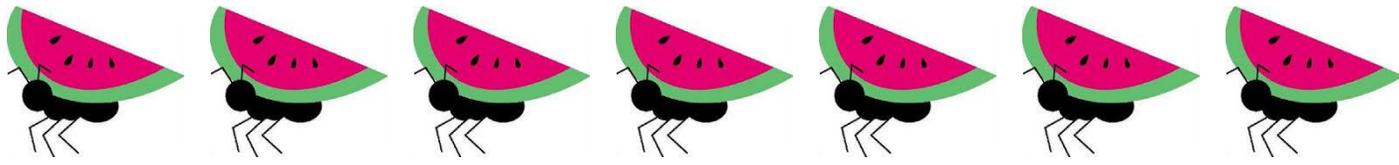


NCNS Spring Shopping Fundraiser

Thursday, April 28th
10:00 am - 7:00 pm
1957 Cherry Lane, Northbrook

La De Da will donate 10% of sales to our school! Invite your friends and be sure to mention NCNS when checking out. Starting at 5:00 p.m., refreshments and light snacks will be served. Following shopping, please join us for drinks at Marcello's!





NCNS Art Night / Summer Send Off Picnic



Thursday May 26th
5:30-7:00pm @ NCNS

Come to NCNS and admire artwork made with pride by our favorite little artists!

Bring a picnic blanket to enjoy dinner on the lawn with your family and friends, if the weather permits. Feel free to bring your own food or purchase dinner from the Louie B. Fresh Food Truck!

Inside, you will find an art “scavenger hunt” and prizes for the kids! Be sure to take home your child’s matted artwork at the end of the night. This is a special event to end the school year and say goodbye for the summer. Hope you can join us!

